

24 April 70

To Weisberg/Roffman

Dear Harold/Howard:

I shall probably be writing this letter in pieces. Howard's recent correspondence is full of interesting things, but I am in the throes of marking final exams, and have deadlines to meet.

399 base: Today I returned 3-base composite photo to HW with a note that I did not see a difference resulting from differences in the base itself-- just things that I attribute to photography, lighting. HR's note on Nichols' photo suggests that I am wrong in this-- but on the basis of what I have seen, I cannot yet concur that there is a difference. Let HR explain what it is, since HW's explanations ~~xxx~~ seem not to be getting through to me.

For reference let's refer to the new base photo as "photo-A"; continue with the others as "photo-W" and "photo-R".

Skolnick: HR-- sit tight and I'll send you the pages of Coup that deal with Vallee and Bolden, and the documents. In a few days. You will see that all of what Sk has comes directly from Coup. And you will understand why he cannot win suit, and why he knows he cannot win it.

The prognosis is grim. Press will have a field day, and Harold's winner will be inundated by the adverse publicity concerning Sk. The only way to ~~xx~~ avert disaster is for HW to sue Sk-- but even that has built-in traps. At least it's something that they probably will not have anticipated, and causing them panic and confusion always brings us something good.

Garrison's case is different. JO had a case that he thought he could win. Sk has a case that he knows he cannot win.

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I received a copy of Sk's suit after writing the paragraph above. It is even worse than I imagined it could be. He is demanding things that don't exist and never existed! It looks, too, as though he is inventing connections and suggesting all over the place that "there is a link", etc. I was doubtful of Time's account that Sk had gotten info from "former" Secret Service agents, but some of the material can ~~xxx~~ have come only from the SS. The rest is straight out of Coup I.

I'll write to Sk and try to get clippings.

Purchase of TSBD: Massachusetts friend sent me Wall St. Journal article (20 Apr 70) on purchase. The buyer is a collector of JFK "memorabilia". He plans to preserve the building, not have it torn down. I wrote and congratulated him on purchase, and sent good wishes. He's a guy "after me own heart": ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ ~~the~~ the WSJ says (prefacing with "oddly enough") "he doesn't think the fatal shots were fired from the depository, or that Oswald was the sniper."

His name is Aubrey Mayhew of Nashville, Tenn. I sent letter in care of Centron Corp., where he works.

Neck fragments: The information that the conditions which you (HR) described are true make them no less nonsensical than what I described before. Much information is missing, if not about the content of the X-rays, then about what happened to the body before the X-rays were taken.

If Morgan's description is true, then all data are in a state of insoluble confusion. What he describes makes no sense whatever.

I think you are wrong to suppose that autopsy docs did not know of neck fragments. Only knowledge of such fragments could have inspired language like "no bullet and no major portion of a bullet" elsewhere than in the head. They knew! Just as they knew that there was a missile wound in the front and that it was an entrance wound. I think that matter so solidly nailed down that it could be raised in court. Evidence of their knowledge is circumstantial, but conclusive. There is no way that they can have failed to know.

I am barely willing to accept notion that the back wound was exit, though I entertain such a notion very reluctantly, for I believe Glen Bennett in his report, and think other evidence convincing.

If you suppose that "dust" (I am tempted even to call it "mist") in JFK neck was left by bullet traversing back to front, you must consider in light of the following:

a) if bullet was like 399: it can only have lost substance by brushing base against hard object. This implies tumbling. But the character of the "exit" wound in the front absolutely belies the notion of a tumbling bullet. Tumbling bullets leave large lacerated wounds of exit. Don't think of a tumbling bullet as a high-diver doing somersaults; think of it as a ~~xxxx~~ buzz-saw, for that is what it is like.

Hand wound: As I indicated before, I think this out of the question for the reason that too many people saw JFK hands-- people not otherwise suspected as being capable of foolerey.

Must stop. More will follow.

(b) if an expanding bullet, the neat character of "exit" wound still belies the notion. Expanding bullets of high velocity invariably leave larger exit wound than entrance. *Still, Dick*

✓ P.S. (Roffman only) Harold is under tremendous pressure and disappointment over mistakes you and I and others have made which threatened to undo much of the good work that he has done. Things that are bad not just for him (though he would suffer most), but for all of us. More and more we drive him to trust fewer and fewer people. That can only be detrimental-- less to him than to us, for we have gotten a great deal more than we have given. Understand his position as best as you can. He can anticipate trouble better than we can, for he has had more experience and more disappointments than we. For that reason-- and for our own interest as well as his-- I urge you to comply with his requests as nearly as you can, and to follow his advice. It may seem to us at times (falsely) that he is selfishly acquisitive, but see our association in light of all he has given, and you will understand that more often than not he is acting in our benefit. Some harsh words may come from him to you as they have to me. Ask yourself, as I do, whether or not they are deserved. And by all means do not be offended, for he does sincerely seek to help us. He knows that he does himself

no good by isolating himself, and insulating himself from both deliberate and inadvertent damage, and he does not do so unless and until there seems no alternative but isolation. The worst of it is when friends drive him that way, people who do not wish to hurt him-- it's bad enough when he ~~xxx~~ suffers for what enemies do, but at least that is enāutable.

So understand.